CompassCDS
ASCII Import Plug-in
User Guide

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Introduction

This guide presents the CompassCDS ASCII Import Plug-in and describes configuration and use.

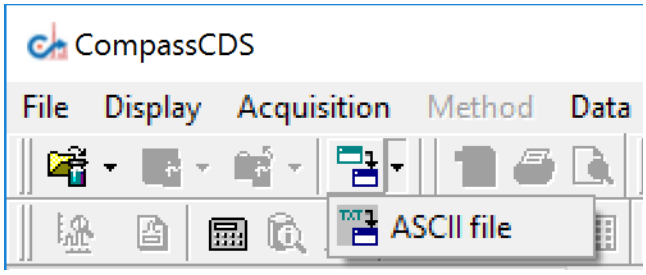
A plug-in is a small program that can process any kind of data on specific chromatographic files: global, group or peak information data. The plug-in data treatments have no influence on CompassCDS raw data.

The CompassCDS ASCII Import plug-in program converts ASCII data into CompassCDS data. It is installed during CompassCDS setup.

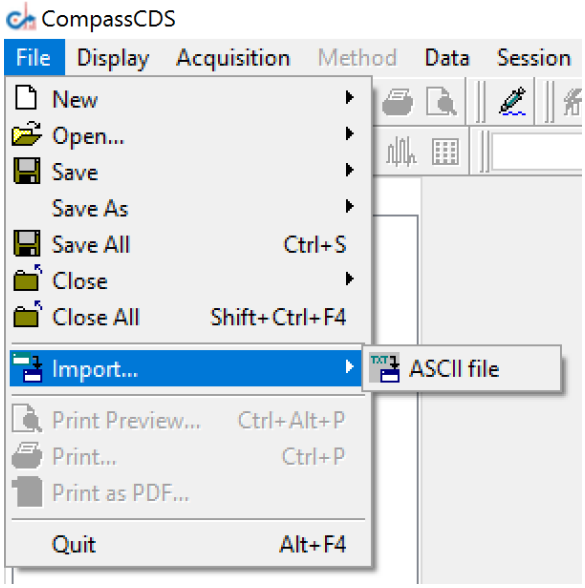
Application Details

Converting One ASCII File

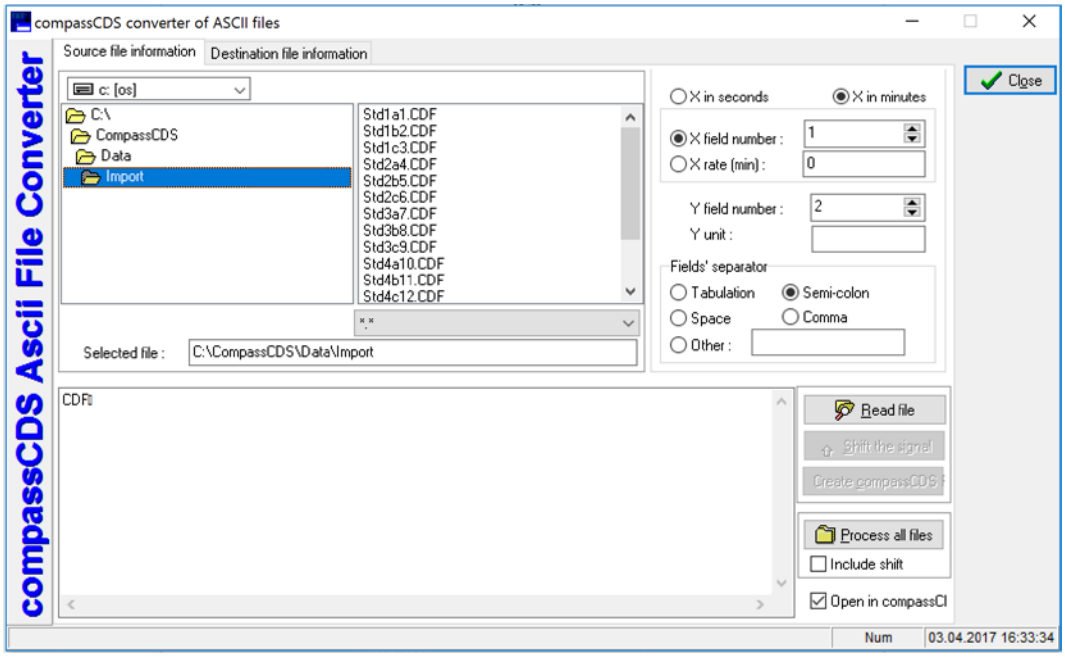
Select the ASCII file import option in the plug-in menu, in CompassCDS toolbar:



Or select File, Import option from the menu:



A new screen appears:



First, select the directory where the ASCII files are stored and then select the ASCII file to convert. The plug-in can convert .txt or .csv files into CompassCDS Data files.

Select the unit to be used for the X axis (minutes or seconds).

The user can select either the place where the X data are (by selecting the X field number option and then entering the column number) or the data rate (if no X data are available for example), and then can select the column number where X (or Y) data are listed. Enter the Y unit in the dedicated field.

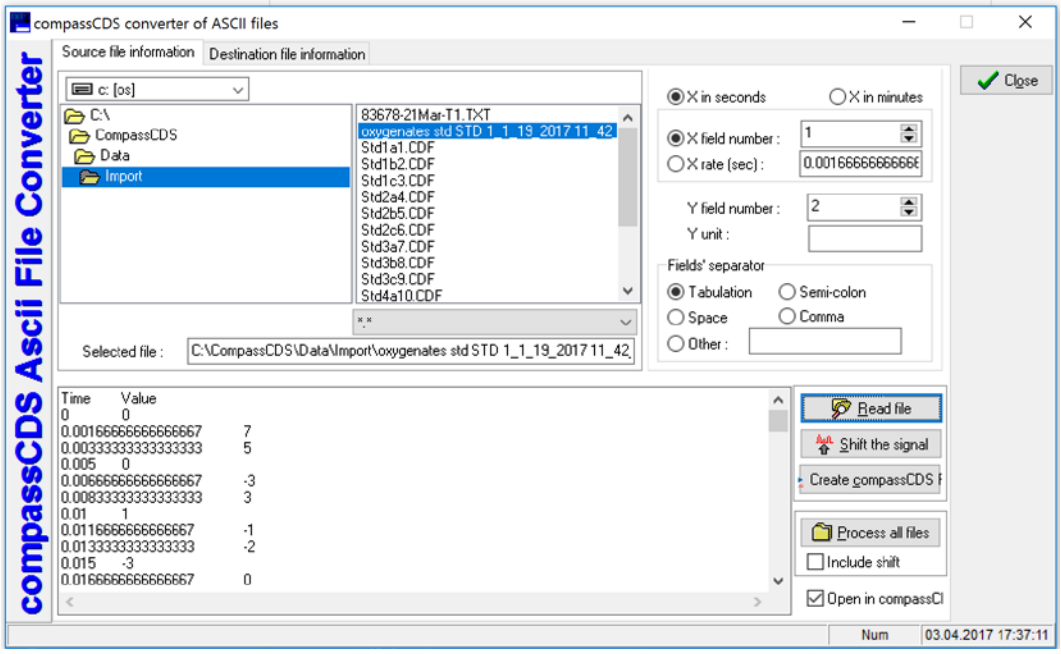
In the Field separator, select the item which separates the X and the Y data.

When the correct field separator is selected, click on the

button. Two buttons appear, (

and

) and the correct X rate is displayed in the dedicated field.



The raw data are displayed in the lower part of the screen.

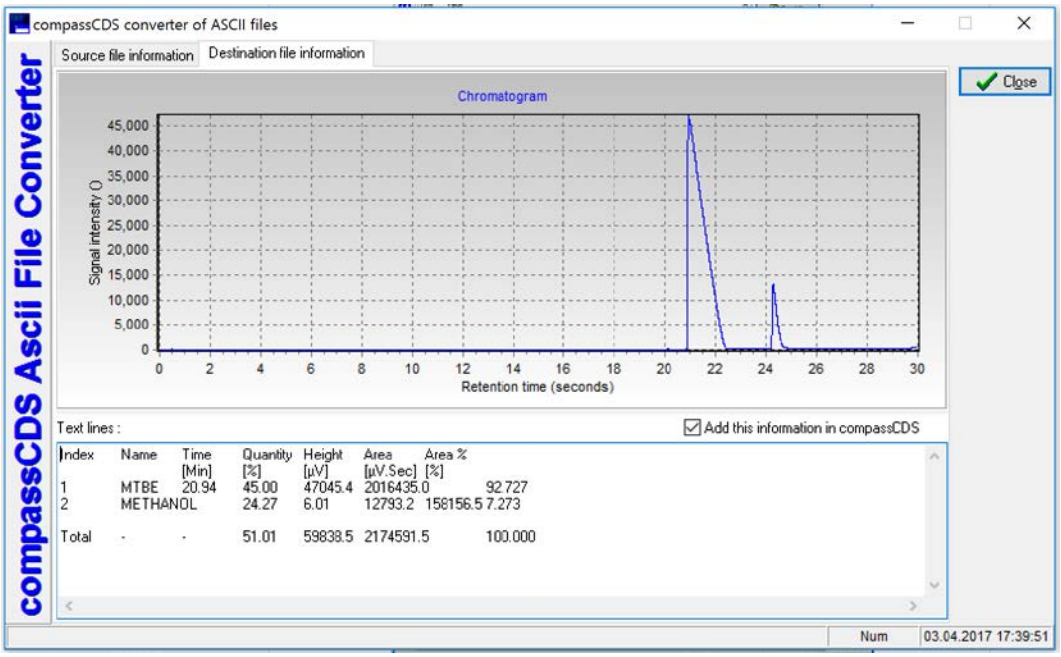
When the

button is clicked, the signal is automatically shifted so that the coordinates of the first point is (0,0). This shift will be included in the Data file if the corresponding Include shift box is checked.

When the user clicks on the

button, the current file will be processed. The corresponding CompassCDS.DATA file is created and opened in CompassCDS if this option is checked.

Click on the Destination file information tab. The chromatogram is displayed according to the different parameters fixed in the Source file information tab.

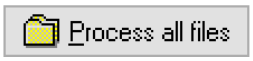


Users can enter information in the Text lines area. This information will be added in the Data file if the Option 'Add this information in CompassCDS' box is checked.

Converting Several ASCII Files

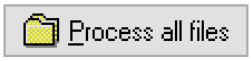
First select the directory where the ASCII files are stored and then select the ASCII files to convert.

Then select the unit of X axis (minutes or seconds). In the X field number (or Y field number), choose the column number where X (or Y) data are listed. Enter the Y unit in the dedicated field. In the Field's separator, choose the item that separates the X and the Y data. All these parameters must be the same for all the ASCII files selected.

To create Data files, click on the 

button. All the selected files are converted into Data files. If the Option "Open in CompassCDS" is checked, all converted files will be opened in CompassCDS after the processing.

Opening Converted Files in CompassCDS

When a user clicks on the 

or the

buttons, data files are generated. If the option "Open in CompassCDS" is checked, the data file(s) are immediately opened in CompassCDS (after CompassCDS processing). After conversion, the generated files are identical to standard CompassCDS data files.

If a user has entered information in the Text lines area and if the Option "Add this information in CompassCDS" box is checked, this information appears in:

- The Description field in the open box
- The runinfo variable
- The Description area of the chromatogram properties.

The following screen gives an example of description entered by user in the ASCII import plug in: